

Sample article for local organizations to use to reach their customers/taxpayers

You may use the following information on your website to alert individuals and families about extra opportunities and free tax services IRS is offering.

Extra Help for Unemployed Taxpayers this Tax Season

The Internal Revenue Service announced several additional steps it is taking this tax season to help people having difficulties meeting their tax obligations because of unemployment or other financial problems.

The steps include:

- **Additional flexibility on offers in compromise**
In addition to installment agreements, the IRS will consider an offer in compromise – an agreement between a taxpayer and the IRS that settles the taxpayer's debt for less than the full amount owed. IRS employees have more flexibility to consider a taxpayer's current income and potential for future income when negotiating an offer in compromise. Normally, the standard practice is to judge an offer amount on a taxpayer's earnings in prior years. This new step provides greater flexibility when considering offers in compromise from the unemployed.
- **Series of Saturday open houses**
IRS offices will open extended Saturday hours offering taxpayers extra opportunities to work out tax problems face-to-face with the IRS. During these expanded Saturday hours, taxpayers will be able to address economic hardship issues they may be facing or get help claiming any of the special tax breaks in last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- **Special Section of IRS.gov Created**
If you are unemployed or struggling financially, there is a [new electronic tax center](#) on IRS.gov to help you. This online tax center has numerous resources including links to information on tax assistance and on relief to help struggling taxpayers.

To locate an IRS office near you, check IRS.gov, [Contact your Local Office](#).